

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 13, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 47

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### Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto

December 19, 2012

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An act to add Section 653.01 to the Penal Code, relating to crimes.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 47, as amended, Gatto. Emergency telephone system: abuse.

Under existing law, any person who knowingly allows the use of, or who uses, the 911 telephone system for any reason other than because of an emergency is guilty of an infraction. Any person who uses the 911 telephone system with the intent to annoy or harass another person is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000, by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

This bill would provide that any person who calls the 911 telephone system to dispatch a police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service* response to a residence or place of business where there is no emergency, with the intent to annoy or harass another person, and police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service personnel* are dispatched as a result of the call, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000, by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. Under the bill, the person responsible for that call is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000, by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 2 years, or by both that fine and imprisonment, if any person sustained bodily injury as a result of conduct arising out of and in the course of the police, *sheriff, fire*

*department, or emergency medical service* dispatch. Under the bill, the person responsible for that call is guilty of involuntary manslaughter, punishable as specified, if any person sustained death as a result of conduct arising out of and in the course of the police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service personnel* dispatch. This bill would require, upon conviction, that the person shall also be liable for all reasonable costs incurred by any unnecessary emergency response. This bill would exempt from its provisions telephone calls made in good faith. By increasing the penalty for an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 653.01 is added to the Penal Code, to  
2 read:  
3 653.01. (a) Any person who calls the 911 telephone system  
4 to dispatch a police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical*  
5 *service* response to a residence or place of business where there  
6 is no emergency, with the intent to annoy or harass another person  
7 and if police ~~are~~, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical*  
8 *service personnel* dispatched as a result of the telephone call, is  
9 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than ten  
10 thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment in a county jail for  
11 not more than one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.  
12 (b) Any person who calls the 911 telephone system to dispatch  
13 a police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service*  
14 *personnel* response to a residence or place of business where there  
15 is no emergency, with the intent to annoy or harass another person  
16 and if police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service*  
17 *personnel* are dispatched and any person sustains bodily injury as  
18 a result of conduct arising out of and in the course of the police,  
19 *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service personnel*  
20 being dispatched to the residence or place of business, is guilty of

1 a felony punishable by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars  
2 (\$10,000), by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than two  
3 years, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

4 (c) Any person who calls the 911 telephone system to dispatch  
5 a police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service*  
6 response to a residence or place of business where there is no  
7 emergency, with the intent to annoy or harass another person and  
8 if police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency medical service*  
9 *personnel* are dispatched and any person sustained death as a result  
10 of conduct arising out of and in the course of the police, *sheriff,*  
11 *fire department, or emergency medical service* being dispatched  
12 to the residence or place of business, is guilty of involuntary  
13 manslaughter punishable under subdivision (b) of Section 193.

14 (d) For purposes of this section, “emergency” means any  
15 condition in which emergency services will result in the saving of  
16 a life, a reduction in the destruction of property, quicker  
17 apprehension of criminals, or assistance with potentially  
18 life-threatening medical problems, a fire, a need for rescue, an  
19 imminent potential crime, or a similar situation in which immediate  
20 assistance is required.

21 (e) Upon conviction of this section, a person shall also be liable  
22 for all reasonable costs, including property damage, incurred by  
23 an unnecessary police, *sheriff, fire department, or emergency*  
24 *medical service* response.

25 (f) This section shall not apply to telephone calls made in good  
26 faith.

27 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
28 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
29 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
30 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
31 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
32 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
33 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
34 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
35 Constitution.